

**Remarks**

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the following remarks.

**Election/Restrictions**

According to the Office action, claims 1-20 stand subject to restriction to one of groups I and

II.

Applicant hereby elects Group I, claims 1-12 and 20, with traverse.

**Election of Species**

The Office Action further requires election of species among claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15 and 20.

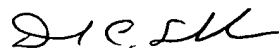
*This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: various thickeners as described in Claims 4, 5, 8, and 10-12.*

*Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claims 1-4, 6-11, 13-15 and 20 are generic.*

Within this group, Applicants elect, for prosecution on the merits, the species relating to polyacrylate thickeners, e.g., sodium polyacrylate thickeners as specifically recited in claims 4, 5, 8, and 10-12.

It is respectfully submitted that this communication is fully responsive to the outstanding Restriction Requirement. Early favorable consideration on the merits is therefore earnestly solicited. In the event that a phone conference between the Examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney would help resolve any issues in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact said attorney at (651) 275-9806.

Respectfully Submitted,

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